

### Worship at St Peter and St Paul, Dinton

We have been praying for our beautiful church of St Peter and St Paul to be used more as a place of prayer and worship and God has answered our prayers in a most unexpected fashion. The Romanian Orthodox community have been praying for a place to worship for their congregation gathered from Aylesbury, and Wycombe. Fr Julian was driving on the Lower Road, saw our church and called in. He was welcomed by Rosemary and from there we have discovered that God is working among us.

The Romanian congregation wishes to worship on the Sunday mornings when we are not currently using the church, on Tuesday Evenings and for the major festivals – some of which (Christmas and Easter) they mark with overnight vigils. Our worship patterns seem to fit together like a jigsaw.

The community is overseen by an experienced priest in Oxford and they have a contract with an Anglican Church there so we can replicate written agreements.

They will bring in icons (holy pictures) and candle holders, but the space for our worship will be respected. They are eager to assist with the care of the church and churchyard. They are keen to join in fundraising for a sound system. They are also keen to pay their way as guests and pay a service and usage charge to cover additional costs we will encounter.

The PCC met with Fr Julian and four other members of his congregation and we shared a time of prayer together for Ukraine and especially the plight of refugees, many of whom are in Romania. Fr Julian shared about how his mother is welcoming refugees.

Following a discussion, we enthusiastically agreed to move to a formal relationship. Rev Nigel, Rosemary Jackson and Steven Kennell are following up with the Diocese of Oxford. They are doing due diligence and will draw up agreements for signing.

We have invited the congregation to worship as visitors on March 27 and they will worship in our church over their Holy Week and Easter – a week after ours. This will enable us to ensure that the partnership will be good for both of us before we sign formal agreements.

Please pray for this exciting development. It reminds us that the church must be diverse because humanity is diverse; it must be one because Christ is one.

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**



## Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Churches of: St. John Baptist, STONE; Ss Peter & Paul, DINTON; Assumption of St. Mary the Virgin, HARTWELL  
[www.stonedintonhartwell.com](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com)

# St. John the Baptist STONE Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March

**10:30am Holy Communion**

*Richard Smith and Nigel Featherston*

### This week

<i>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>7:30pm</i>	<i>SJB Fabric Committee</i>
<i>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>10:00am – 12:00 noon</i>	<i>CAFÉ in the PARK</i>
<i>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>7:30pm</i>	<i>CHOIR PRACTICE at the Chapel</i>
<i>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>7:30pm</i>	<i>LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH COURSE at the Chapel</i>
<i>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>1:30pm</i>	<i>LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH COURSE Online</i>
<i>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>9:00am 10:30am</i>	<i>Matins Morning Worship</i>

### Update to covid arrangements in church

Now that the Government has removed all remaining legal restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid 19, we will no longer be asking people to wear face coverings during church services, including when singing. However, when attending church services, please continue to be respectful of each other's personal space, particularly that of worshippers who wish to continue wearing face coverings in church at present.

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## MARCH 22ND IS WORLD WATER DAY



*THANK YOU FOR THE WORK WHICH IS PROGRESSING ON OUR FACILITIES AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY DONATED TOWARDS TWINNING.*

We would like to show our thanks by twinning our new toilet with one in a country where water and toilets are not so readily available and YOU can help.

There is a board in the church porch which needs to be filled with faces in exchange for a donation. Please take a face to decorate, write a comment or poem and stick it on the board, placing your donation in the box. When we send off the donations we will be twinned with a toilet abroad and we will get a certificate to hang in our loo.

More details available here: [HTTPS://WWW.TOILETTWINNING.ORG/](https://www.toilettwinning.org/)

*Sue Birrell Fabric Committee Chair*

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022

This year's APCM is on **17<sup>th</sup> May at 8:00pm.**

The APCM is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where we review what has happened in the past year and we look to the next year with the election of Churchwardens and PCC members.

If you want to attend the APCM, or vote at the APCM, you will need to be on the electoral roll. Details about registering will follow soon, so please watch this space. If you are already on the roll but want to come off, please let us know.

All reports and application forms will be available shortly. So watch this space and save the date.



### Living in love and faith

This year as a Benefice we are engaging with the national 'Living in Love and Faith' (LLF) material and exploring issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

A study group is meeting at the Methodist Chapel in Stone on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm and it is not too late to join in. We are being led by Cassa, Richard Smith, and David Pickup. There is also an [online](#) group being run by Phil Groves on Friday afternoons 1:30 – 3:00pm

Meeting ID: [884 2947 3076](#)

Passcode: [107287](#)

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**



A new **weekly 'Café in the Park'**  
started on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 10am -12noon**  
and **EVERY TUESDAY** thereafter  
at the **Jubilee Pavilion**

Hot and cold drinks, cakes and biscuits, toasted teacakes and yummy cheesy crumpets. And most importantly a Warm Welcome.

Our Saturday morning Café will continue each month. Thankyou to the team of helpers from yesterday especially those who were new. Well done everybody.

### *\* Prayers for the Ukraine, Russia & for World Peace\**

***'As Christians, our response to a crisis must be rooted in prayer. We invite you to join with us in praying for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace'***

*Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

### Prayer for Strength and Guidance



Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way. Guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will and aware of our soul's need. Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen. Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever. Amen.

The charity **Link to Hope** is supported by some of our benefice churches through the Christmas shoe box appeal. They now also have a Ukraine campaign that will support project managers in Ukraine and countries taking in refugees around Ukraine:

<https://linktohope.co.uk/campaigns/donate-to-the-ukraine/>

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